we axe endowed with special aptitudes for them. Directive instinct changes its role : when it no longer instructs, it smooths the path of learning.

In man this change is almost complete : we may observe it progressing in the animals below him. The innate equipment of all the higher animals appears to include aptitudes as well as ready-made accomplishments. Some birds appear to need lessons in flying from their parents : thrushes may be seen instructing their young to break snail shells. Aptitudes vary in individuals—not perhaps very greatly, when we consider how much of them is common to all of us—but the differences are sufficient to distinguish talented from untalented men. Some persons are endowed with special aptitudes for games, others for learning languages, others for literary expression, others for mathematics. Their talents may not be accompanied with strong impulses for using them : we all know of talented but idle men. On the other hand, impulses may be possessed without special aptitudes : such is the case with tongue-tied poets, with earnest but unsuccessful golfers. When impulses are combined with special aptitudes we have the equipment of an able man.

If talent is nothing more than an addition to an aptitude which is possessed by most men, and is not an endowment peculiar in itself, we can understand why it should so often appear unexpectedly in families : it is a thing not of

kind. but
of degree, and would be liable to such variations
as bring about differences in colour of hair. or
complexion. between children of the same parents.
And just as these physical traits. however varying
in the individuals of a family, tend towards
uniformity within the family. so may we expect
special developments of aptitudes to be frequently
hereditary in particular families.